

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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R 121559Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7095

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NO UR

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOINS CRITICISM OF SOVIETS

REF: STOCKHOLM 3167

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DAGFINN VARVIK HAS DENOUNCED SOVIET REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS IN USSR. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS SEPT 10 (TEXT ALSO RELEASED BY MFA OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN SAME DAY), VARVIK EXPRESSED REGRET THAT "SOVIET AUTHORITIES DO NOT SEEM WILLING TO TOLERATE THE PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF ANY DIVERGENT VIEWS ON ISSUES CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE."

2. IN DIRECT REFERENCE TO CSCE, FONMIN SAID SOVIET POLICY "CONFLICTS WITH THE AIMS IT IS SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE THROUGH THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOP-
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ERATION WHOSE REALIZATION IS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY BOTH NORWAY AND THE SOVIET UNION."

3. STATEMENT CONCLUDES WITH HOPE THAT PRESSURE FROM WORLD PUBLIC OPINION WILL INDUCE TOLERANCE ON PART OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN THEIR TREATMENT OF REGIME OPPONENTS. COMMENT: NORWEGIAN CRITICISM PARALLELS DENUNCIATION BY SWEDISH FONMIN (REFTEL) ALTHOUGH VARVIK STATEMENT IS BRIEFER AND CONSIDERABLY Milder IN TONE. ALTHOUGH SEPT 9-10 WERE ELECTION DAYS HERE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RELEASE OF STATEMENT WAS CALCULATED TO SWAY VOTERS (VARVIK IS CHAIRMAN OF CENTER PARTY) WHO HAD EITHER ALREADY VOTED OR DECIDED HOW THEY WERE GOING TO VOTE. MORE PROBABLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WANTED TO PUT NORWAY ON RECORD AS OPPOSING SOVIET REPRESSION OF INTELLECTUALS BUT IN TYPICALLY UNOBTRUSIVE AND UNPROVOCATIVE FASHION. BUCHANAN

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